

A³
9. (Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said scanning means scans plural ultrasonic scanning lines and includes means for repeating a receiving and transmitting operation twice in connection with each of said ultrasonic scanning lines, and means for subtracting the echo signal obtained by the first receiving and transmitting operation and the echo signal obtained by the second receiving and transmitting operation from each other, and said image data obtaining means obtains image data based on said subtracted echo signal.

A⁴
14. (Amended) An ultrasound diagnostic apparatus comprising:
scanning means for repeatedly scanning a cross section of an examining human body having implanted bubbles as an ultrasonic shadowing agent with an ultrasound to repeat an echo signal;
image obtaining means for repeatedly obtaining image data based on said echo signal;
displaying means for displaying said generated image data as a motion image;
[and]
changing means for changing a frequency of said ultrasound from a first frequency to a second frequency; and
storing means for selectively storing the image data obtained from the
obtaining means during a time period in which the cross section of the examining
human being is scanned with the ultrasound of the second frequency.--

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Claim 19, line 5, change "nth" to --subsequently--.

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--20. (Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein said

Q5 scanning means scans plural ultrasonic scanning lines and includes means for repeating a receiving and transmitting operation twice in connection with each of said ultrasonic scanning lines, and means for subtracting the echo signal obtained by the first receiving and transmitting operation and the echo signal obtained by the second receiving and transmitting operation from each other, and said image generating means generates image data based on said subtracted echo signal.

Q6 24. (Amended) An ultrasound imaging method, which repeatedly scans a cross section of an examining human body having implanted bubbles as an ultrasonic shadowing agent with an ultrasound to obtain an echo signal, repeatedly obtains image data based on said echo signal, and displays said image data as a motion image, comprising:

a first step of scanning said ultrasound by first power; [and]

a second step of scanning said ultrasound by second power stronger than said first power after scanning said ultrasound by said first power; and

a third step of selectively storing the image data obtained during a time period in which the cross section of the examining human body is scanned with the ultrasound of the second power.

Q7 27. (Amended) An ultrasound imaging method, which repeatedly scans a cross section of an examining human body having implanted bubbles as an ultrasonic shadowing agent with an ultrasound to obtain an echo signal, repeatedly obtains image data based on said echo signal, and displays said image data as a motion image, comprising:

a first step of scanning said ultrasound by first power; [and]

a second step of scanning said ultrasound by second power stronger than said first power after scanning said ultrasound by said first power; and

a third step of selectively storing the image data obtained during a time period in which the cross section of the examining human body is scanned with the ultrasound of the second frequency.--

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-28 are presently active in this case, Claims 1, 8, 9, 14, 19, 20, 23, 24 and 27 having been amended by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1-7, 10, 11, 13-18 and 21-28 were further rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Monaghan (5,255,683). However, Claims 8, 9, 12, 19 and 20 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter. However, since Applicant considers himself entitled to the scope of patent protection stated in the amended independent Claims 1, 13, 23 and 27, Claims 8, 9, 12, 19 and 20 have been maintained in dependent form at the present time.

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Cont.

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